

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for separating components of a slurry, the apparatus comprising:
 - a hydrocyclone for receiving a slurry comprising liquid and solid components, the hydrocyclone having a slurry inlet, an underflow outlet, an overflow outlet and an inner wall having a circular cross sectional shape;
 - a products vessel configured to receive a portion of the liquid components and gases from the overflow outlet; and
 - means for providing fluid communication between the products vessel and the underflow outlet wherein the means for providing fluid communication comprises a housing enclosing the hydrocyclone and the products vessel, and wherein the products vessel and the underflow outlet are open to the interior of the housing.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising means for adjusting pressure within the interior of the housing.
- 4-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) Method for separating components of a slurry, the method comprising:
 - introducing a slurry comprising liquid and solid components into a hydrocyclone, the hydrocyclone having an underflow outlet and an overflow outlet;
 - directing separated liquid components and gases through the overflow outlet and into a products vessel; and

providing fluid communication between the products vessel and the underflow outlet wherein fluid communication between the products vessel and underflow outlet is provided by enclosing the hydrocyclone and products vessel in a common housing.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of operating the hydrocyclone in balanced mode.
18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of adjusting pressure within the housing.
19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the slurry introduced into the hydrocyclone is at an elevated pressure and the pressure within the housing is adjusted to about the elevated pressure.

20-27. (Canceled)